



## **001. Introduction and Scope**

The World Croquet Federation (WCF) is governed by these Statutes approved by the Council of WCF Member Associations. These apply to all WCF activities.

## **100. Constitution of the WCF**

### **101. NAME and LEGAL STATUS**

The Federation shall be called "The World Croquet Federation" (WCF).

The WCF has the legal status of an "unincorporated association" and is considered to be domiciled in England for legal purposes. From time to time the WCF will appoint named Trustees to hold its assets and investments. At all relevant times the law applicable to those Trustees will be the law of England and Wales.

### **102. MEMBERSHIP**

(102.1) The WCF shall consist of national Croquet associations. Full, Associate and Observer Member associations are hereinafter referred to as "Members" where the context permits.

Each Member may be said to represent a number of "Affiliated Players" - a total number of players including direct associates and also members of affiliated clubs and regional federations.

#### **(102.1.1) Full Members with voting rights**

Full Members are elected under Statute 114.

A Full Member must be self-supporting and fully independent of other Croquet associations. (In this context "self-supporting" means that the association must be financially viable in its own right and "independent" means that the association is not under the control of another Croquet association).

A Full Member must also meet the following criteria:

(102.1.1.1) The Member must have at least 100 Affiliated Players.

(102.1.1.2) The Member must be able to produce a copy of its own audited or independently examined accounts, which demonstrate the payment of membership subscriptions to it.

(102.1.1.3) The Member must be recognised by their government as responsible for Croquet in their nation.

(102.1.1.4) There must be clear evidence that the Member is involved in promoting Croquet and that effective coaching and refereeing schemes are in place.

(102.1.1.5) The Member must have ultimate responsibility for its national tournament calendar and must have staged at least two national championships prior to election to the WCF.

A Full Member will receive two or more votes (depending on the number of Affiliated Players) and one guaranteed place in all WCF events.



## **(102.1.2) Associate Members with voting rights**

Associate Members are elected under Statute 114.

An Associate Member must be self-supporting and fully independent of other Croquet associations. (In this context "self-supporting" means that the association must be financially viable in its own right and "independent" means that the association is not under the control of another Croquet association).

An Associate Member must also meet the following criteria:

(102.1.2.1) The Member must have at least 20 Affiliated Players.

(102.1.2.2) The Member must be able to produce a copy of its own audited or independently examined accounts, which demonstrate the payment of membership subscriptions to it.

(102.1.2.3) The Member must hold national championships.

(102.1.2.4) There must be clear evidence that the Association is involved in promoting Croquet.

An Associate Member will receive one vote and one guaranteed place in all WCF events.

## **(102.1.3) Observer Members without voting rights**

Observer Members are elected under Statute 114. An Observer Member may be given a place in a WCF event but is not guaranteed one.

## **(102.2) All Members**

(102.2.1) A Member is a Croquet association responsible under its Constitution for the administration of Croquet within a particular nation.

(102.2.2) Only one Croquet association may be elected in respect of any one nation.

(102.2.3) The Association must administer one or more versions of Croquet recognised by the WCF (see Statute 301).

(102.2.4) Each Member shall consist of organisations and individuals associated for the purpose, either solely or inter alia, of playing and promoting the Games (see Statute 301.1) or any of them.

(102.2.5) Each Member must publish its constitution on its website, or lodge a copy with the WCF, and notify it immediately of any amendments thereto.

(102.2.6) Each Member must EITHER

- be able to demonstrate that it fully supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by incorporating within its own Rules of Association, written child protection procedures commensurate with their National/ State laws relating to the Convention, OR
- commit to only send Under 18 entrants to a WCF event if they have agreed in advance with the Event Host how the Under 18 entrant(s) will be adequately looked after throughout the trip.



## **103. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

(103.1) The Vision of the WCF is to make Croquet a well-known, well-understood, well-respected and well-supported sport in countries throughout the world.

The principles and objectives of the WCF, to help achieve this vision are:

(103.2) To promote, develop and codify recognised versions of the sport of Croquet ("the Games") internationally at all levels.

(103.3) To uphold and enforce the rules and laws of the Games.

(103.4) To promote international team and individual championships, maintaining a rolling 10 Year Schedule of proposed and planned events.

(103.5) To make and uphold Regulations for international championships.

(103.6) To recognise certain championships by sanctioning or licensing them to be held under the auspices of the WCF.

(103.7) To employ the funds of the WCF as may be deemed appropriate to develop and realise the vision.

(103.8) To increase, by joint action, the influence of Members in dealings with other sports governing bodies and with local and national authorities.

(103.9) To preserve the independence of the WCF in all matters regarding its relations with Members.

(103.10) To control WCF events played in any nation, but only when the appropriate Member has reached prior agreement with WCF to be the host.

(103.11) To maintain a website and publish a newsletter periodically to aid exchange of information.

(103.12) To make awards to those who have contributed to the achievement of the WCF's aims.

(103.13) To uphold these principles and objectives.

(103.14) To take such general measures as are expedient for advancing the international interests of the Games.

(103.15) To uphold a commitment to non-racial and non-discriminatory sport.

(103.16) To ensure the observance of the WCF Statutes and Regulations.

## **104. THE COUNCIL**

(104.1) The WCF shall be managed by its Members, through representatives or delegates of their choosing, collectively called the "Council".



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Effective Date  
1 May 2014  
Version 11.5

(104.2) The Council will operate primarily by managed electronic mail (“email”) communication. Members may discuss and develop proposals in a series of (typically) 21 day cycles. Each Observer Member is entitled to participate in the managed email discussions and may contribute but not vote. See Statute 920 for a description of the decision-making process.

(104.3) The Council may also meet in person for an Ordinary General Meeting (“Council Meeting”) or an Extraordinary General Meeting – see Statute 108.

(104.4) Formal decision-making is by the email voting process involving Full and Associate Members only. The number of votes to which each Member is entitled is determined according to their Membership category and number of Affiliated Players as shown in the following table:

	Min number of Affiliated Players	Votes
Observer	nil	nil
Associate	20+	1
Full	100-499	2
	500-999	4
	1000-1999	6
	2000+	8

## **105. PRESIDENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(105.1) The day-to-day affairs of the WCF shall be managed by a President and a Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "MC"). The MC shall settle all urgent matters and shall have general administrative powers to carry on the work of the WCF and to govern its financial affairs, subject always to the right of Council to amend or reverse any decision taken.

(105.2) The Council shall elect a President for a 4 year term. A person may be President for at most eight years.

(105.3) The President shall, ex-officio, be a member of the MC, and shall on retiring from the Presidency, remain a member of the MC for the following 12 months (unless deciding to resign during this time).

(105.5) The Council shall also elect six other members to the MC for terms of 4 years, each of whom will be eligible for re-election without restriction on the number of terms.

(105.6) An election for President shall take place every four years (or at a shorter interval if required) in December; elections for the MC shall take place every year when required by retirements or resignations, also in December. The successful candidates for both President and MC take office on the first of January the following year.

(105.7) The elections for President and MC shall be determined by an email vote subject to the following conditions:

(105.7.1) If the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies, then the candidates shall be deemed to be elected to fill the vacancies.



(105.7.2) In cases where there is a contested election for the post of President, provision will be made on the voting form for candidates who are not successful in the Presidential election to be included in the election for membership of the MC, if they have indicated they wish to stand for such election. In these cases, the voting for the post of President will be decided first, so that unsuccessful candidates can then be considered when deciding the MC election. Any tied vote is resolved as described in Statute 113.1.

(105.8) The Council shall elect a Treasurer and the MC shall elect a Secretary-General, both of whom shall be ex-officio members of the MC with one vote each and serve for 4 year terms. Both may be re-elected for subsequent terms.

(105.9) Candidates for election to President or the MC may be nominated by Full, Associate or Observer Members.

(105.10) The MC may not contain more than two individuals from one Member, excluding the offices of Secretary-General, Treasurer and Immediate Past-President. An individual is deemed to come from the country of the Member that nominates them for election unless they are not eligible to play for that Member on the date of their nomination, in which case they are deemed to come from the Member for which they are eligible to play. If eligible for more than one Member, they must declare their chosen affiliation. They shall retain this affiliation throughout their term of office.

(105.11) Apart from the purposes described in 105.10, a member of the MC is not a representative of any Member when acting for the WCF, but is to act in what they judge to be the best interests of the WCF and Croquet as a whole.

(105.12) Subject to Statute 105.10 above, the MC may fill any vacancy arising during the year, subject to confirmation at an election the following December.

(105.13) The Secretary-General shall call for nominations to fill vacancies arising for President, the MC or Treasurer by emailing all Members by the end of September.

(105.14) All nominations for these offices, authorised by the candidate and by an appropriate officer of the nominating Member, together with a brief resumé of the candidate's personal details and objectives, must be received by the Secretary-General not later than the end of October.

(105.15) A voting form shall be emailed to every Full and Associate Member by the Secretary-General during the first week of November, giving names, details and resúmes of candidates, and their nominating Members. The Secretary-General shall set and state clearly the "end date" which will typically be one calendar month after the voting form is sent out.

(105.16) Votes for candidates must be returned by Full and Associate Members to the Secretary-General by the end date. Votes arriving after the end date will not be counted.

(105.17) Within a week after the end date, the Secretary-General will announce the winning candidates and give a summary of the votes recorded for each candidate.

## **106. REGULATIONS**

(106.1) The MC may, from time to time, publish Regulations or amend existing Regulations, to cover the operation of any aspect of the WCF. Non-compliance with any Regulation shall make the offender liable to the relevant punishment.



(106.2) In the event that the provisions of WCF Statutes conflict with the provisions of any Regulations made under them, the provisions of the WCF Statutes shall prevail.

(106.3) After approval by the MC, all Regulations shall be put to Council for ratification, normally by injecting them in Cycle 2 or 3 of the process described in Statute 921.

## **107. SUB-COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS**

(107.1) The MC may appoint sub-committees to carry out functions.

(107.2) The MC may co-opt one or more individuals to serve on a sub-committee provided the sub-committee contains at least one MC member.

(107.3) The WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee (GCRC) shall comprise six members who will elect their own chairman. The (English) Croquet Association, Australian Croquet Association, Egyptian Croquet Federation, the New Zealand Croquet Council and the United States Croquet Association will each appoint one member. The remaining Full and Associate Members will elect a sixth member. Procedures for electing this sixth member will be determined by the MC. Finalised new versions of GC Rules must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by Council, before coming into effect. Terms of Reference for the GCRC are shown in Statute 107.4.

(107.4) Terms of Reference for the GCRC are as follows:

- (107.4.1) the purpose of the GCRC is to administer the Rules of Golf Croquet
- (107.4.2) the WCF will seek to issue new versions of the Rules of GC no more frequently than every three years
- (107.4.3) between new versions, Official Rulings will be produced by the GCRC. These may be incorporated into new versions of the Rules subsequently
- (107.4.4) the WCF will publish Rules and Official Rulings on its website only – each Member association may take that text and publish it freely within their own domain in whatever format they deem appropriate
- (107.4.5) GC Rules should only be changed where there is a clear and demonstrated need
- (107.4.6) where the GC Rules and the AC Laws cover similar subject matter which is not part of the essential differences between the two codes, the GCRC should attempt to work with the ILC to develop common wording
- (107.4.7) a revision cycle should begin with the S-G, on behalf of the GCRC, asking Members to present items they wish to see addressed in the new version. This initial period of consultation should last 1 month
- (107.4.8) once a new version has been drafted, it should be circulated to Members for comment for a further period of 2 months. Following this period further amendments will be made, as appropriate, before the GCRC recommends the new version of the Rules of GC to Council for ratification.

(107.5) The WCF MacRobertson Shield Committee (MRC) shall comprise five members. The Australian Croquet Association, the (English) Croquet Association, the New Zealand Croquet Council and the United States Croquet Association will each appoint one member and the WCF Secretary-General shall provide administrative support as a non-voting member. The Committee shall be chaired by the representative of the next host of the MacRobertson Shield unless he or she declines or is not available, in which case the Committee shall elect a different chairman. The MRC will govern the MacRobertson International Croquet Shield by publishing “The MacRobertson Shield Regulations”, which appear as Annex A to the WCF Sports Regulations. The MacRobertson Shield will form Tier 1 of the WCF Association Croquet World Team Championship (AC WTC). From time to time, the MRC will also publish “The MacRobertson Shield Arrangements” to control the specific arrangements for the next test series. The four Member associations represented on the MRC each



have one vote, which may be cast in person or by email. All decisions of the MRC require a majority vote, with at least three of the four voting members in agreement.

(107.6) The MC may appoint suitable persons to assist in administration. Examples of such officers are: Rankings Officer, Equipment Officer, Webmaster, Archivist/ Historian.

## **108. GENERAL MEETINGS**

(108.1) In addition to the normal email business of Council, a Council Meeting (an Ordinary General Meeting of the WCF) shall be held at such time and place as the MC may decide, and within at most two years of the previous meeting.

(108.2) The business of a Council Meeting shall include:

(108.2.1) To discuss any unresolved Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous Council Meeting.

(108.2.2) To transact any other business of the WCF.

(108.2.3) To receive feedback and suggestions from Members.

(108.3) Informal decisions may be made at Council Meetings to guide and prioritise the work of the President and MC, but any formal decisions will be taken after the Council Meeting by the managed email process described in Statute 920.

(108.4) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be convened at any time by the MC.

(108.5) The process to convene an EGM must be commenced by the Secretary-General within 15 days of the receipt by him of a formal requisition by Full and Associate Members representing at least one-third of the votes that could be cast. The requisition must specify the business to be transacted at the meeting and no other business may be transacted. The EGM must be held within 3 months of the formal requisition being received by the Secretary-General, unless those making the requisition agree a later date.

(108.6) The notice of an EGM shall be sent to Members at least 60 days before the date of the meeting, and include details of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

(108.7) Any decisions of the EGM will be binding if supported by at least two thirds of the votes that could be cast if all Full and Associate Members were present. If the necessary majority is not reached, the decisions must be ratified immediately after the meeting by the managed email process described in Statute 920, before they become binding.

(108.8) The accidental omission to give valid notice of any EGM to a Member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

(108.9) The minutes of a Council Meeting or EGM will be formally confirmed through the email process described in Statute 920.

## **109. OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

(109.1) During the fourth quarter of each calendar year, the Council shall by means of the managed email process described in Statute 920:



(109.1.1) Receive the Report of the MC.

(109.1.2) Receive the Statement of Accounts for the previous calendar year.

(109.1.3) Approve the Business Plan and Budget for the coming calendar year.

(109.1.4) Elect an Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

(109.2) From time to time as required, Council shall by means of the managed email process described in Statute 920:

(109.2.1) Consider applications for Membership.

(109.2.2) Consider revisions of Members status.

(109.2.3) Consider proposals for championship event types to be added to, or removed from, the list of recognised event types.

(109.2.4) Confirm, revise or remove any penalties imposed under Statutes 204 or 205.

(109.2.5) Consider other proposals and motions raised by the MC or Members.

## **110. VOTING PROCEDURES FOR AN EGM**

(110.1) The MC shall appoint a "Returning Officer" to receive email (postal) votes.

(110.2) Any Member that intends to be represented and vote at an EGM shall advise the Secretary-General in writing at least 30 days before the date of the meeting of the name(s) of the delegate(s) who will represent them at the meeting. Substitute delegates will be permitted to vote at the Meeting provided they are listed as possible substitutes on the original notification. Full and Associate Members not able to be represented at an EGM shall be allowed to cast an email (postal) vote.

(110.3) In the case of a vote cast by email or post, the voting paper shall be completed correctly and received by the Returning Officer not later than 7 days before the date of the EGM. Failure to comply with these requirements will invalidate the vote.

(110.4) In the case of votes cast at an EGM, delegates will record their votes by using the same voting paper as sent to the Member concerned.

(110.5) Any vote cast shall be scaled up by the full number of votes to which a Member is entitled under Statute 104 before the total number of votes is counted.

(110.6) Full Members with multiple votes may split their votes at an EGM if they choose.

(110.7) The result of the vote will be announced at the EGM.

## **111. COUNTING AND RECORDING THE VOTE AT AN EGM**

(111.1) Two "Scrutineers", who are not members of the MC and one of whom may be the "Returning Officer", shall be appointed by a majority vote of the MC to count the votes cast in consideration of a motion.



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(111.2) The Treasurer shall advise the Scrutineers of the votes to which each Member is entitled under Statute 104.4, and the Scrutineers shall be responsible for scaling up the number of votes cast appropriately.

(111.3) Following the last date for receipt of email/ postal votes, the Scrutineers shall prepare a table of email/ postal votes cast by each Member, appropriately scaled up as necessary.

(111.4) The Scrutineers shall attend the EGM, and at the conclusion of the debate on the motion, the Chairman of Council shall call upon those present who have not already cast an email/ postal vote to vote upon the matter using a copy of the voting paper already circulated.

(111.5) The Scrutineers shall then combine these votes with those already received by email/ post, scaled up as appropriate, and provide the Chairman with the final voting figures. The Chairman shall then announce to the Meeting the result of the vote, and the Scrutineers will provide a written report recording the vote as outlined in Statute 111.3 above.

(111.6) A Member that has cast an email/ postal vote but whose delegate(s) attend the meeting in person may cancel the postal vote and vote at the meeting, provided that:

(111.6.1) the delegate(s) so inform the Scrutineers before the vote is taken in the meeting,

(111.6.2) the delegate(s) is included on the list of authorised delegates under Statute 110.2, and

(111.6.3) the delegate(s) has due written authorisation from his Member association to that effect.

(111.7) The Chairman may require those who have voted at the meeting to identify themselves to the Scrutineers.

(111.8) The Secretary-General shall circulate a copy of the Scrutineers' report to each Member within 30 days of the EGM.

## **112. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE**

Any Member in arrears with its subscription or suspended under Statute 205 is not eligible to vote in any election, EGM or on any other matter.

## **113. TIES AND MAJORITIES**

(113.1) In the event of a tie in an election, the winner shall be decided by drawing lots.

(113.2) In the event of a tie when voting on a motion, the motion shall be declared defeated.

(113.3) For changes to the Statutes, a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required. For all other votes (except where noted otherwise below), a simple majority of the votes cast is required.

(113.4) All motions which gain the required majority will come into immediate effect unless the motion shall otherwise provide.

## **114. ELECTION OF ASSOCIATIONS**

An application for membership of the WCF may be made only by a national Croquet association. An application must be made in writing to the Secretary-General and must contain the information



required by Statute 102 and such other information as the MC may require. An application validly submitted will be considered by the MC which will then recommend to Council whether that association should be admitted and to what class of membership.

## **115. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(115.1) Each Full, Associate and Observer Member must pay an annual subscription of such amount as shall be decided and published by Council from time to time. Subscriptions may not be increased by more than 10 per cent each year unless a motion to that effect is passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

(115.2) Subscriptions must be paid in pounds sterling.

(115.3) Subscriptions are payable initially upon election and subsequently by the end of January in each year.

(115.4) The delegates of a Member whose subscription is in arrears may not attend Council Meetings or EGMs, nor participate in email discussions or votes.

## **116. EXPULSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If a Member fails to pay its subscription in any year by the due date, its membership shall be deemed to have lapsed. If such a Member wishes to be re-admitted it must either pay all arrears of subscription or go through the procedure for admission in accordance with Statute 114. If the period since a subscription was paid is three years or less the Council may require payment of all or some of the intervening subscriptions. The Council should consider each case on its merits.

## **117. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

(117.1) If, in the opinion of Council, a Member ceases to represent adequately the Games in its country or territory or commits a significant breach of the Statutes, it shall be liable to be expelled by a motion passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

(117.2) If an Association is expelled and wishes to be readmitted, it must comply with Statute 114.

## **118. RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER**

A Member must give written notice of its intention to resign from the WCF to the Secretary-General not later than the end of December in any year, failing which it shall be liable for its subscription for the following year.

## **200. Rules of the WCF - Administration**

### **201. LANGUAGE AND CURRENCY**

The official language of the WCF shall be English and the default currency for accounts, budgets, subscriptions, entry fees and license fees shall be pounds sterling (GBP).



## **202. FINANCIAL YEAR AND ACCOUNTS**

The financial year of the WCF shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the annual statement of accounts of the WCF shall be prepared by the Treasurer, reviewed and approved by the MC, then examined by the Independent Examiner.

## **203. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Any person who wishes to accept office in the WCF must give notice of any financial or other interest he has in the Games before taking up the appointment.

## **204. PENALTIES**

(204.1) The MC is empowered to call upon any Member to explain and, if necessary, correct any breach of these Statutes or other act against the interests of the Games that is alleged to have been committed by the Member or any organisation or individual affiliated to it.

(204.2) Subject to Statute 205 the MC is empowered to recommend to Council such prohibitions or penalties in respect the above as it shall by a majority decide.

## **205. SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER**

(205.1) The MC is empowered to recommend to Council the suspension of a Member from world team competitions if, in the opinion of the MC, it ceases to represent the Games adequately in its jurisdiction or commits a grave breach of these Statutes.

(205.2) Any suspension so recommended may be challenged by the Member concerned through the managed email process described in Statute 920 or at an EGM and, in any event, must be confirmed or removed at the anniversary of its imposition.

## **206. ARBITRATION**

Any dispute between two or more Members, or between a Member and the MC or one of its sub-committees, shall be referred to three arbitrators appointed by the MC. No person interested in the dispute may be appointed an arbitrator or, if a member of the MC, vote on the appointment of arbitrators.

## **207. INTERPRETATION**

All references in these Statutes to the masculine include the feminine.

## **208. DISSOLUTION**

(208.1) The WCF may only be dissolved if a motion to that effect is passed at an EGM convened specifically for that purpose by a majority of four-fifths of the votes recorded.

(208.2) In the event of such dissolution, any surplus or deficit in the assets of the WCF shall be distributed to or contributed by each Member in the same proportion that its annual subscription to the WCF bears to the total subscription income of the WCF.



## **209. COPYRIGHT AND PROPERTY RIGHTS**

All copyright, patents, registered trade marks, trade marks, and any other intellectual property rights relating to WCF events, WCF logo, all other property and other related matters shall remain with the WCF.

## **210. COMMUNICATION**

Correspondence and communication between the WCF and a Member shall be between the Secretary-General and representative(s) nominated by the Member. A Member must notify the Secretary-General immediately of any change in contact details for their nominated representative(s).

## **211. UNDERTAKINGS BY MEMBERS**

(211.1) Membership of the WCF shall constitute an agreement between the WCF and each Member to be bound by and to comply with:

(211.1.1) the WCF Statutes and Regulations made under them (each as amended, revoked or added to from time to time),

(211.1.2) the relevant Laws or Rules of the Games as recognised by the WCF for any WCF event they are hosting, and

(211.1.3) the relevant WCF Statutes and Regulations for any WCF event they are hosting.

## **212. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

(212.1) All Full and Associate Members shall have the right to send representatives to compete in all competitions licensed by the WCF.

(212.2) World Team Championships will be open to team entries from individual WCF Members only.

## **213. NOTICES**

(213.1) Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Statutes shall be in writing (which includes by email or other electronic means of transmitting text).

(213.2) Any notice or other document may be served on or delivered to any Member by the WCF either personally, or by email, or by post, or by facsimile transmission, to the address provided to the Secretary-General by the Member for this purpose, or by any other means authorised in writing by the Member concerned.

(213.3) A Member present, either in person or by proxy, at any meeting of the WCF shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

## **214. INDEMNITY**

Subject to the provisions of legal requirements of the nation represented by any Member, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a Member representative or delegate may otherwise be entitled, every other representative, delegate, committee member, officer or independent examiner of the WCF shall be indemnified out of the assets of the WCF against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is



acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the WCF.

## **300. Rules of the WCF - Competitions**

### **301. THE GAMES**

(301.1) The WCF recognises the following versions of Croquet: Association Croquet, Short Croquet, Two-ball Croquet, Golf Croquet, American Six-Wicket and Nine-Wicket Croquet, as well as other regional variants. Collectively, "the Games".

(301.2) The WCF recognises that all relevant nations should be consulted on any proposed changes to the Laws or Rules of Croquet and that the following bodies are responsible for proposing amendments to, or new editions of, Laws and Rules, and for issuing official rulings on them. The final authority for the Laws and Rules used within each Member's nation lies with the Member:

(301.2.1) For alterations to the Laws of Association Croquet, Short Croquet and Two-ball Croquet: The International Laws Committee.

(301.2.2) For alterations to the Rules of Golf Croquet: The WCF Golf Croquet Rules Committee.

(301.2.3) For alterations to the Rules of American Six-Wicket and Nine-Wicket Croquet: The United States Croquet Association

### **302. OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The WCF shall publish from time to time a schedule of events it has sanctioned or licensed.

### **303. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYER TO REPRESENT A COUNTRY**

(303.1) In Statute 303:

(303.1.1) "Country" means the country of the relevant WCF Member association.

(303.1.2) A player will "represent a Country in an International Croquet Event" if the player competes:

(303.1.2.1) in a national team in a WCF world championship or other event in which national teams play against each other. (For the avoidance of doubt a "national team" is a team whose name is the name of the country being represented. Teams called, for example, "SomeCountry Croquet Association" are not national teams.), or

(303.1.2.2) in any other WCF world championship, or

(303.1.2.3) in any other event in which the player is either selected by the WCF or their Member association as a national representative, or invited or allowed to play by the organising body of the event and more than half of the players in the event are selected as national representatives.

(303.1.3) "Permanent Residence" refers to the Country in which the player has their only or main home; it includes extended leave to remain in a Country for a period of at least 36 months, but



excludes stays in a Country for less than 36 months for reasons such as study, temporary academic or military postings, short-term employment contracts or similar.

(303.1.4) “Qualified” means satisfying one or more of the criteria in Statutes 303.2.1 – 303.2.4.

(303.1.5) “Eligible” means Qualified and not being prohibited from representing the Country by virtue of 303.3.1.

(303.2) A player is Qualified to represent a Country in an International Croquet Event if the player:

(303.2.1) was born in the Country, or

(303.2.2) either of their natural or adoptive parents was born in the Country, or

(303.2.3) is a citizen of the Country and is entitled to hold a passport issued for the Country and has lived in that Country for thirty-six consecutive months, or

(303.2.4) has been a Permanent Resident of the Country for a period of twelve months immediately prior to the event.

(303.3) Subject to Statutes 303.3.1-2 below a player who is Qualified to represent more than one Country may choose which Country to represent.

(303.3.1) Having represented a Country in an International Croquet Event, a player is Eligible to represent only that Country in other International Croquet Events unless either:

(303.3.1.1) A period of 36 months has elapsed since the end of the International Croquet Event in which the player last represented a country, or

(303.3.1.2) A period of 13 months has elapsed since the player last represented a country in an International Croquet Event [and](#) that [Event](#) finished before 20 August 2013, or

(303.3.1.3) A Material Change in Circumstances has taken place.

(303.3.2) Examples of a “Material Change in Circumstances” include (but are not necessarily limited to):

(303.3.2.1) When a player takes up Permanent Residence in a different Country (but note Statute 303.2.4 – a twelve month period of residence must occur before they become Qualified for the new Country unless they are already Qualified for the new Country under 303.2.1, 2 or 3),

(303.3.2.2) International boundary changes cause a player to become a resident of a different Country,

(303.3.2.3) A Member association whom the player has represented within the previous 36 months ceases to be a Member of the WCF,

(303.3.2.4) A croquet association of a Country the player is Qualified to represent becomes a Member of the WCF.

(303.4) The WCF will maintain a Nationality Database of players’ names and against each name will be shown a Country. The Country shown will be either:

(303.4.1) the Country the player last represented in an International Croquet Event, or



(303.4.2) a Country for which the player is currently Eligible (even though the player may not yet have represented that Country), or

(303.4.3) a Country for which the player expects to become Eligible in future.

(303.5) A player may apply to change the Country shown against their name in the WCF Nationality Database by contacting the Secretary-General and providing all relevant information with the application.

(303.5.1) An application may be made when a player is Eligible to represent the new Country. The Secretary-General will ensure that the change takes place and is recorded in the Nationality Database, unless the player is not Eligible for the new Country.

(303.5.2) An application may also be made by a player before becoming Eligible to represent the new Country. In support of the application the player should specify the circumstances under which the change in Eligibility would arise. In this case the change on the Nationality Database will take place on the earlier of:

(303.5.2.1) the day on which the player becomes Eligible to represent the new Country, or

(303.5.2.2) the day the WCF announces the allocation of places to Members ("the Invitation Date") for the first WCF World Championship singles event for which the player will be Eligible to represent the new Country, or

(303.5.2.3) the day the WCF announces the dates and venue for the first WCF World Team Championship for which the player will be Eligible to represent the new Country.

The Secretary-General will ensure that the change takes place and is recorded in the Nationality Database, unless it appears that the player is not, or will not become, Eligible for the new Country after all.

(303.6) Players should advise the Member association whose Country they wish to represent in an International Croquet Event of any change in their Qualification and Eligibility. The Member, when selecting a player to play in an International Croquet Event, is responsible for ensuring that the player will be Eligible to represent that Country in the event. If the player is not Eligible to represent that Country on the day that the event starts then the player cannot represent that Country in the event. The player or the Member can apply for a ruling from the WCF about the player's Eligibility by contacting the Secretary-General at least one month prior to the start of the event providing all relevant information with the application.

(303.7) Players are responsible for ensuring that the Country shown against their name in the WCF Nationality Database on the Invitation Date for a WCF event is the Country they wish to represent in that event. If a player is not Eligible to represent that Country on the day the event starts, or, after the Invitation Date but before the event starts, indicates an intention to represent a different Country in the event, then the player cannot take up a place allocated to any Member for that event. (The player may still be able to play in the event if awarded a wild card by the WCF.)

(303.8) Where, in the opinion of the WCF, unusual circumstances exist regarding a player's nationality and/ or residency, or where a player qualifies only for a non-Member country, the MC shall determine that person's Qualification and Eligibility for one or more Member associations, and/or their suitability for representing a Country in any International Croquet Event.

(303.9) Where a team, or teams, in an International Croquet Event is comprised of players from more than one WCF Member, the players must declare which constituent Member they are representing prior to participation within it, be bound by any previous relevant Eligibility status and acknowledge that any lawful change of Eligibility will affect their status pursuant to Statute 303.



## (303.10) Discipline and adjustment of results

Where a player is discovered to transgress Statutes 303.1 to 303.9 above:

(303.10.1) Before an event: Upon discovery the relevant Member may substitute another Eligible player. In addition, the relevant player is not disqualified from representing a Country in any other International Croquet Event for a Member for whom they are Eligible.

(303.10.2) During an event: All matches played by the relevant player in a singles event, or by the team which included the active participation of the relevant player in a team event, shall be declared, at the discretion of the organising body, lost to the relevant opponent(s) by the maximum score allowed under the Laws or Rules of the Games, or nullified completely.

The relevant player is disqualified from representing a country in any International Croquet Event for two years.

In a team event which continues after the discovery, the Member may continue to play in the event provided they do not use the relevant player.

(303.10.3) After the event has finished: the organising body of the event shall decide whether to:

(303.10.3.1) allow the overall results of the event to stand; or

(303.10.3.2) adjust the results of the event or part of it, having regard to the stage of the event when discovery of the ineligibility was made and overall fairness to other players in the event.

The relevant player is disqualified from representing a country in any International Croquet Event for two years from the date of the discovery.

## **304. DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL**

A player shall be deemed to be a national of a country for the purposes of these Statutes if he is qualified to represent that country pursuant to Statute 303.

## **305. RECIPROCITY OF MEMBERSHIP**

(305.1) A player who is affiliated to a Member should be granted reciprocal rights to play in calendar fixtures (tournaments) when visiting another Member.

(305.2) Visiting players who are currently affiliated and in good standing with their Member association should obtain a letter or similar form of introduction from their Member association to present to the visited Member. The letter, or similar, should be sent or presented initially to the Head Office of the visited Member and a copy carried to present to each club etc. visited.

(305.3) Members should provide details to fellow Members if any visiting player fails to observe the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. Such players could be denied letters of introduction, etc., on future occasions.

## **306. AGE LIMITS**

(306.1) A player may compete in a tournament, match or competition subject to a maximum age limit if his age does not exceed the limit on the preceding 31<sup>st</sup> December.



(306.2) A player may compete in a tournament, match or competition subject to a minimum age limit if he has attained the minimum age on the first day of the tournament.

## **307. LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

(307.1) Before accepting an application to license or sanction an event which is to be designated as a WCF event, the MC must agree with the Member within whose jurisdiction the event is to be held the Laws or Rules of Croquet that are to be observed thereat.

(307.2) The Tournament Regulations to be observed at any event held under the auspices of the WCF shall be the relevant Regulations of the WCF made under Statute 106 (insofar as such Regulations do not conflict with these Statutes). Where the Member hosting the event wishes to vary any of these Regulations, they may apply to the MC for authorisation to do so. Where a matter arising during such an event is not covered by these WCF Regulations, then it shall be decided by the relevant Tournament Regulations of the host Member or, failing that, by a WCF Appeals Committee.

(307.3) A WCF Appeals Committee comprising a chairman and two further members may be assembled from experts and senior administrators of the host Member and the WCF MC. No-one directly involved in the incident under appeal may be involved in the WCF Appeals Committee concerned.

## **900. Standing Orders Of The World Croquet Federation**

### **CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND EGMS**

901. The agenda for each Council Meeting or EGM shall be prepared by the President and Secretary-General.

902. The President shall take the Chair at Council Meetings and EGMS, but he may at his discretion appoint a delegate to assist him to conduct the proceedings or request the meeting to appoint a Chairman in his place. Upon such a request, or in the event of the President being unable to attend, the first business at a Council Meeting or EGM shall be to elect a Chairman, and in such case, the Secretary-General shall ask a delegate present to nominate a delegate to take the Chair and a Chairman shall then be elected, each delegate present having one vote for this purpose.

903. Members of the MC shall assist the Chairman in taking charge of the proceedings and the Secretary-General or another member of the MC shall act as Secretary of the meeting.

904. The Chairman shall conduct the proceedings at the meeting and shall have power to interrupt the reading of any document or a speaker. Any delegate disobeying the ruling of the Chairman may be suspended by ordinary motion of the meeting.

905. Every motion and every amendment to a motion shall be proposed by a Member and seconded by a different Member before the same can be discussed by the meeting.



906. In the event of there being more than one amendment to any motion, the last amendment shall be first voted upon and if carried the motion as amended shall become the substantive motion. If an amendment is not carried, the amendment (if any) immediately preceding it shall be next voted upon, and if carried the motion as amended shall become the substantive motion. In the event of no amendment being carried the original motion shall be voted upon.

907. A vote may be taken by a show of hands, unless the Chairman or one delegate requests that there be a roll call or secret ballot.

908. If a roll call is taken, countries shall be called in alphabetical order.

909. When calculating the number of votes required to obtain a majority neither abstentions nor spoiled ballot papers shall be taken into consideration.

910. Without the consent of the meeting, the speech of a motion's proposer shall not exceed five minutes, and that of each subsequent speaker three minutes.

911. No delegate shall address the meeting more than once on any motion or amendment, but if directed by the Chairman the delegate may reply to questions or give further information. The proposer of an original motion may, however, speak for five minutes in reply. Except by leave of the Chair, the right of reply shall not extend to the proposer of an amendment which, having been carried has become the substantive motion. After the reply, the question shall be put forthwith.

912. Any delegate may move without debate at the close of the speech of any other delegate that the question may be now put, and the motion, if seconded by a delegate of another Member, shall unless the Chairman rules otherwise be put forthwith.

913. Any delegate may move without debate at the close of the speech of any delegate that the meeting proceed to the next business, and if the motion is seconded by a delegate of another Association it shall be put forthwith. When a motion is carried that the meeting do proceed to the next business, the question under discussion shall be considered as dropped. During the same debate a second motion that the meeting proceed to the next business shall not be made within half an hour.

914. The quorum shall be sufficient Members present to constitute at least one third of the total votes of all Members. A vote may be taken even if at any time some of the delegates of those Members have left the meeting room. If such a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to such time and place as the President may determine and the quorum for that meeting shall be the number of Members present.

915. A Council Meeting may be adjourned if a motion to that effect is carried by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.

916. All matters of meeting procedure not prescribed by the Statutes including these Standing Orders shall be decided by the Chairman of the meeting.

## **CONDUCT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

917. The MC shall operate according to the WCF Administration Regulations.

## **ROUTINE MATTERS**

918. Matters of routine shall be dealt with by the Secretary-General who shall advise the MC of the same.



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919. The Secretary-General shall refer to the President and MC all matters which in his opinion cannot properly be dealt with by him.

## COUNCIL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

920. Discussion and decision-making takes place within a number of 21 day cycles, during which a proposal develops, matures and is voted upon. The process is managed by the Secretary-General and chaired by the President, using email. Each new topic will be given a number by the Secretary-General for tracking and all emails on the topic must start their Subject line with this topic number. The Secretary-General (S-G) will send all emails on a topic to the nominated delegates for all Members, and any Member wishing to reply should Reply All to ensure all other Members receive their contribution.

921. The following illustrates the typical process:

Step or Cycle	What happens
1	An issue is raised to the S-G in the form of a proposal, question, motion, a complaint or a suggestion – from either the MC or any Member. In most cases, the issue will already have gone through the MC process first and will arrive at this Council Step 1 in a reasonably mature form. Where an issue arises that has not previously been considered by the MC, the S-G will make the MC aware of the issue and keep the MC informed about its progress and outcome.
2	The S-G gives each topic a number to identify the topic and sets out a proposed timetable for debate.
<b>Cycle 1</b>	<b>Initial debate</b> – The first 21 day cycle of discussion on the topic is to obtain Members' opinions and ideas, and formulate potential solutions.
4	The S-G summarises key points and main contenders for the best way forward – possibly in the form of a revised proposal.
<b>Cycle 2</b>	<b>Revised proposal</b> - A second 21 day cycle is given for each Member to respond with their comments on the revised proposal.
6	The S-G updates the proposal in light of comments received.
<b>Cycle 3</b>	<b>Formal vote</b> - If a clear majority of Full and Associate Members support the proposal or the same option from Cycle 2, with few comments raised, all of which can be incorporated without changing the nature of the proposal, then this will be taken as a decision of the WCF "by consensus" (and the process moves straight to Step 8). Where there remains a range of views or substantive comments that change the proposal materially, the S-G will update the proposal and circulate again for a further 21 day cycle, calling this time for a formal vote of Full and Associate Members.
8	<b>Outcome</b> – The S-G reports the decision to Members and to the MC, or (exceptionally) the need for a further cycle of debate if no clear decision was reached. Where a formal vote was taken, the actual voting will be shown in the record.

922. The number of iterations through Cycle 2 and Step 6 depends how easily agreement is reached between Members. The whole process may take between 7 and 12 weeks, typically, allowing for time to revise and re-circulate the proposal between cycles.

923. All email cycles will involve all Members, although only Full and Associate Members may vote in Cycle 3, each with the number of votes according to Statute 104.

924. Full Members with multiple votes may split their votes on any issue if they choose.

925. Full Members may exceptionally call for an extension to Cycle 3 of up to one calendar month (in addition to the standard 21 day cycle time) before a vote on a key topic – a "Time Out".



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926. The Secretary-General will keep and publish a record of the topics discussed, the current status in the process, and the voting outcomes on all topics that enter the process.

**End of WCF Statutes**

## REVISION HISTORY

15.07.89 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	Original
01.10.92 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	Amended
16.06.95 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Amended
01.08.97 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Amended
01.11.00 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Amended
09.08.05 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Re-numbering and re-ordering; Addition of legal processes relating to copyright and property; Adoption of Associate Membership; Voting rights of appointed Treasurer and Secretary-General; Powers to make Regulations; Amend Quorum for meetings and communication between WCF and its membership.
31.07.06 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition	New tenure for President and elected Management Committee Members; Amendment to timescales for proposals to amend WCF Statutes; Adoption of WCF power to regulate its own Tournaments; Recognition of all Croquet variants.
06.02.08 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Allowing amendments to be made to proposals for change; Amendment of Eligibility and Qualification of players relating to International events, time limits, discipline and adjustment of results.
12.05.09 9 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Deals with Qualification of players relating to International events for countries that join or split from each other.
12.10.09 10 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Amendment to 105.9 indicating exempt positions from overall limit per association.
1.01.12 11 <sup>th</sup> Edition	Rewrite to support new email-based decision-making process and general simplification
13.02.12 Version 11.1	Addition of Statute 107.4 to establish the MacRoberston Shield Committee in a WCF framework
07.11.12 Version 11.2	Statute concerning GC RC extended (107.3) and new 107.4 added, with subsequent renumbering of existing 107.4 onwards.
01.02.13 Version 11.3	Changes to implement revisions to the Membership Categories, mostly in 102 and 104.
31.05.13 Version 11.4	Changes to Statute 303 only.
1.05.14 Version 11.5	<a href="#">Amendment of Statute 303.3.1.2.</a>